



ISSN Print: 2394-7500
ISSN Online: 2394-5869
Impact Factor: 5.2
IJAR 2020; 6(10): 340-344
www.allresearchjournal.com
Received: 15-08-2020
Accepted: 17-09-2020

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Exploring tribal tattoo motifs of Madhya Pradesh through textile industry

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Abstract

Textile industry has been a symbol of India's cultural heritage, which has worked to connect the people and played an important role in economic interests. Textile industry is a oldest industry in India having huge cultural heritage with extensive range of textile stuffs, method and type that reproduce the various set of people and customs across the country. A variety of arts are popular in all over the worlds, tribal tattooing art is also from one of them.

The research was focused on identification of tattoo design motifs of Gond and Baiga tribes of Dindori district of Madhya Pradesh for exploring adaptation of some of them on cotton fabric for designing purpose using the different ornamentation techniques and their illustrations on designer Kurtis through computer aided designing (CAD).

Keywords: Tribal, tattoo motifs, textile industry

Introduction

The culture of India refers to the way of life of the people of India. Indian language, religions dance, music, customs, food, costumes and arts differs from place to place within the country. Madhya Pradesh has the largest concentration of tribal population of the country. It is also the largest state of India as far as land area is concerned, Dindori is among the 48 districts that are within the jurisdiction of Madhya Pradesh and is situated on the eastern part of the state. Culture of Dindori district is mainly influenced by the tribal tradition, as it is mostly inhabited by various tribal communities. The art of tattoo designing is prevalent in the area since time immemorial. Only women of the tribe get it designed on their body parts, believing that it would give them their identity in heaven.

Background of the Study

This study was motivated through the observation that various tattoo designs found on the body of tribal peoples. It may be very suitable as motifs on ornamented fabric in textile design decoration and computer aided designing (CAD).

For the study, tattoo design motifs were collected from the Gond and Baiga tribes of Dindori district, Madhya Pradesh.

Objectives of the Study

- To procure information about tattooing tattoo motifs in Gond and Baiga tribes of Dindori district, Madhya Pradesh.
- To study acceptability in modified designs.
- To study awareness towards tattoo motifs by working women and housewives.

Delimitation of the Study

- Only Gond and Baiga tattoo motifs are selected for the study.
- Only two ornamentation techniques are selected for the study.

Review of the literature

A collective body of works done by earlier researcher is technically called the literature. A careful review of the literature enables the researcher to collect and synthesize prior studies related to the present study; this helps to identify the significant overlaps and gaps among prior works.

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Agrawal and Gahlot (1999) in a study 'Simulation of textile designs on computer' explored that with the advent of computer aided textile designing it is possible to visualize the fabric showing different types of designs and combinations of colour. CAD has lead better quality and flexibility in design development, increasing the efficiency and shortening the time between the design concept and the actual marketing. All the basic component design could be programmed in computer languages and stored in computer memory.

Mahawar, N. (2004) [4] explored that tattooing is a common practice amongst the Central Indian tribes. This is done not only to decorate body, but also has other functions associated to fertility. Most tribal women tattooed the motif of a scorpion at the back-side of the right hand thumb. This motif of male sex is tattooed for the purpose of reproduction of procreation. There are about more than two hundred motifs on different part of the female body of the Central Indian tribes. The Baiga get their bodies tattooed elaborately. Almost the whole body except the parts covered under loin cloth are tattooed. The motifs for tattooing on different parts of their bodies are already fixed. The Baiga women look like painted sculptures and their nudity is covered behind the tattooing.

Morton, K. (2010) narrated that a tattoo or being inked is a permanent picture, design or other marking on the skin by pricking it and staining it with an indelible dye. When people are getting tattoos they are forming an expression of themselves in ink on their bodies. They are showing off to the world and everyone in it how they feel or how they live their day to day lives.

Khushi, M. (2011) described that the Gonds, Bhils, Baigas, Binjwares, Kanwars, Murias, Bhatras, Dondami, Marias, Dorlas, and other sub tribes of Gonds, practice tattooing in varied forms. The women amongst the Bhills, Korkus, Gond, Baigas, Mudias, Murais are tattooed over a large part of their bodies. Their face, arms hands thighs and back are tattooed with different motifs. Tattoo motifs reflect not only the environment of the tribal's but also their occupation and tools.

Divya, N. (2012) explored that the ethnic trends and details are all over the fashion runways as people more or less want to return to their roots. Indian traditional and tribal motifs and embroidery were the first to gain mainstream popularity and it later led to Indo western and fusion clothes in the 2000's. We all follow tribal fashion all the time, we just don't recognize it as a particular trend or pay too much importance to it. A tribal shawl, like as Toda shawl would glam up your outfit in seconds. Match it with oxidized jewelry for a traditional look or acrylic embellishment for a modern look.

Materials and Methods

The quality and success of research depends on the adequacy of research design, investigators in the job, sample selection, the tabulation and reporting of the findings and the validity of the procedure employed.

The descriptive survey adopted as the research methodology for the study. The initial survey was conducted to identify

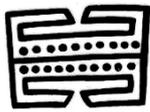
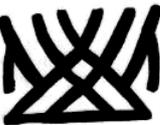
tattoo design motifs of Gond and Baiga tribes of Dindori district.

After designing the prototype hanky sets, final survey was conducted to find out the acceptance for newly designed motifs with different ornamentation techniques and their illustrations on designer kurtis through computer aided designing (CAD).

Sample size of tattoo design Motifs

In this present research work 06 tattoo design motifs are selected for the study. Total three different motifs are selected as the sample size for practical explorative ornamentation techniques and CAD of this study.

These 06 tattoo design motifs are presented with their name and source of inspiration in fig as follow:-

S. No.	Motifs	Name and source of Inspiration
1.		Kakaidanta Pothi is comb like motif. It is made on hands
2.		Ghera pothi is a symbolic motif of anklets which is made on bottom of legs
3.		Baila ankh is a bull eyes like design motif which is made on upper side of the leg.
4.		Muraila is a beautiful motif which usually made on front side of the hands.
5.		Bakkhar is a design motif which is made from lines and dots. It is made on back side of the leg.
6.		Dhandha is a curve, cross design motif which is made on hands.

For the assessment of tattoo design motifs, ornamented piece and illustrated tattoo design motifs on designer kurtis through CAD, the target sample were randomly selected from Jabalpur city.

Tool used for data collection

The researcher collected data by observation, personal interview, questionnaire and home visit.

Practical Exploration

Practical exploration of adaptation of the selected three tattoo design motifs on fabric by using different ornamentation techniques. These are-

1. Hand Painting
2. Machine Embroidery

Hand Painting



Machine Embroidery



Illustration of selected 03 tattoo design motifs on designers kuris through CAD as follow:-

Motif No-1
Name – Kakai Danta Pothi
Dress – Designer kurti



Motif No-2
Name - Ghera Pothi
Dress - Designer kurta



Motif No -3
Name - Baila Aankh
Dress - Designer kusrti



Analysis and Discussion of the Results

The responses toward acceptability in modified design and awareness towards tattoo design motifs has been studied through a set of comprehensive questionnaire.

The analysis and discussion of the results based on the various aspects for the above objectives

- Procure information regarding tattooing tattoo motifs in Gond and Baiga tribes.
- Information regarding acceptability in modified design by working women and housewives.
- Information regarding awareness towards tattoo motifs by working women and housewives.

Table 1: The results of tattoos artists in relation to awareness about tattoo motifs

Sl. No.	Content	Responses (f)	Percentage (%)
I. Are the tattoos famous in whole world			
1.	Yes	20	80
2.	No.	05	20
II. Will tattoo motifs are useful in designing of a dress			
1.	Yes	20	80
2.	No	05	20

Majority of the respondents it is thought that the persons improving their beauty of body through tattoos. 80 percent tattoo artists are of the opinion that the tattoos are famous in

whole world and tattoo motifs will be useful in dress designing.



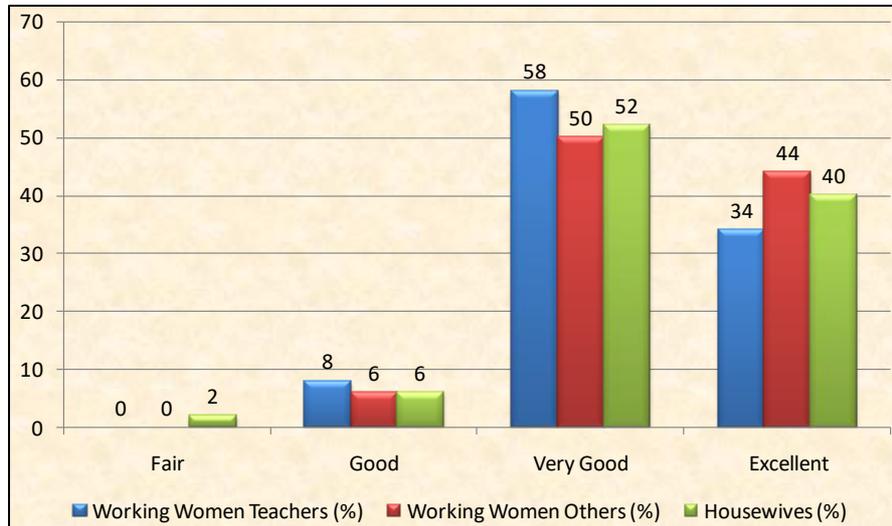
Graph 1: The results of tattoos artists in relation to awareness about tattoo motifs

Table 2: Comparative responses regarding overall opinion towards newly designed tattoo motifs and CAD by working women and housewives

Sl. No.	Opinion	Responses					
		Working Women teachers (n=50)		Working Women others (n=50)		Housewives (n=50)	
		(f)	(%)	(f)	(%)	(f)	(%)
1.	Fair	0	0	0	0	01	02
2.	Good	04	08	03	06	03	06
3.	Very Good	29	58	25	50	26	52
4.	Excellent	17	34	22	44	20	40

The table reveals about the comparative responses regarding overall opinion towards newly designed motifs with CAD. It is evident that more working women teachers (58%),

working women others (50%) and housewives (52%) opined that the newly designed motifs and CAD were very good followed by excellent (34%, 44% & 40%).



Graph 2: Comparative responses regarding overall opinion towards newly designed tattoo motifs and CAD by working women and housewives

It is depicted from results that most of the respondent opined that the newly designed tattoo motifs and CAD are excellent because the motifs are very unique and probably incorporated in designing of dresses for the first time. The appreciation is towards its uniqueness and the new concepts to incorporate the traditional tattoo motifs in dress designing to create new styles and designs. The respondents also aware about tattoo motifs, this is probably due to better exposure, interest, educational background and acquired knowledge by them.

Conclusion

The tribal tattooing is very popular among the different countries of the world. It is important to mention that modernization had made significant changes in tattoo culture. Sometimes we feel the traditional design motifs have been replaced by modern motifs but the meaning behind the practice has not changed much. Taking into consideration the significant of tribal tattoo, the present research work has become very significant.

The special significant of the present research work relates to use of tribal motifs by textile industries in reproducing these tattoo motifs on garments. The fashion world is never fixed but keeps revolving from time to time. Textile industries can adopt these traditional tattoo motifs in their products to create new styles and can explore these tattoo motifs in all over the world.

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